



## President's Armed Forces Week Message

*From the American Forces Information Service*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — *The following is the text of a message from President George W. Bush to the U.S. military:*

I am proud to offer my sincere thanks during Armed Forces Week to the brave men and women who protect our nation.

During the past several months, I have been privileged to witness personally the depth of your dedication and the strength of your character. The professional manner in which you conduct your duties, your can-do spirit, and your sense of patriotism all reflect the fact that our Armed Forces are second to none in the world.

In a world of both existing and emerging threats, you provide a strong and steady defense. Because of you, America is a secure nation where our citizens can hope, dream, and live their lives in freedom.

My office holds no greater honor than to serve as your commander in chief. On behalf of all Americans this Armed Forces Week, I salute you for the tremendous contributions you make to our nation's defense. You are guardians of peace and liberty and have the thanks of a grateful nation. May God bless you all.

George W. Bush



George W. Bush

## Carl Vinson Hosts Retention/Attrition Stand Down

*By USS Carl Vinson Public Affairs*

BREMERTON, Wash. (NNS) — In an effort to keep Sailors better informed, improve their quality of service and enhance their careers, the command retention team of USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) put together a retention/attrition stand down to help their shipmates with career choices.

The Chief of Naval Personnel recently announced a fleet-wide stand down for all commands "to review the effectiveness of their retention program to support the Navy's goal: 'have the right number of quality Sailors to properly man the U.S. Navy.'"

USS *Carl Vinson*'s career-counseling team, with the help of the newly formed

professional development department, took that challenge and put together a retention fair to teach Sailors, young and old, about opportunities of success and about the benefits of continuing a career in the Navy.

This retention fair, held in the ship's aircraft hangar bay in April, found the command's career counselors answering their shipmates' career-related questions.

Before the fair began, the aircraft carrier's commanding officer, Capt. Bruce W. Clingan, spoke with the crew about their roles as leaders, their paths to

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## SECDEF's Armed Forces Day Message

*From the American Forces Information Service*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — *The following is the text of a message from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to the U.S. military:*

Each year, America sets aside a day to commemorate the devotion of our men and women in uniform — the certain foundation of the liberties and peace that we have enjoyed throughout the history of our nation. Yours is a calling distinct and unique, for you voluntarily put your lives at risk defending the freedoms we hold dear. Indeed, in peacetime or in war, as you work to keep us safe, you assume risks many will never know. And wherever it is that you serve — in any sky, on any ocean, on any shore — your dedication to our nation's ideal of "peace through strength" is a source of hope and inspiration for liberty-loving people around the globe.

In his inauguration address, President George W. Bush spoke about civility, courage and character — qualities that make this nation special — and he reminded Americans that the strength that matters most is not the strength of arms, but the strength of character expressed in service to something larger than ourselves. This strength of character infuses you, our military men and women, and, as such, you are this nation's ultimate safeguard and blessing.

On this Armed Force Day, the American people join me in expressing our deep gratitude to you — patriots who embody the noble spirit of service and sacrifice as you preserve the blessings of our freedom every day. We thank you, and we are enormously proud of your faithful and selfless service.

Donald H. Rumsfeld

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success, and about the Navy and *Carl Vinson's* mission in the years to come.

"Who are the leaders in the Navy?" Clingan asked the crew. "We all are, and we are all important to the future of *Carl Vinson* and to the U.S. Navy." Clingan also spoke of why, as leaders in today's Navy, we must ask ourselves to make two lists — why we should stay or why should we go.

The retention fair allowed Sailors on board to find answers why they should stay and gave them the opportunity to learn more about career opportunities and the benefits of staying in the Navy.

"I have known Sailors who have gotten out of the Navy after 15 years of service because they were uninformed of all the Navy has to offer," said Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class (SW)

Wayne Dobbs. "I think it's important they put out career information to first-term Sailors."

From tables set up in the ship's hangar, the command's career counselors made themselves available and talked to the crew about such topics as VA home loans, retirement plans, officer programs, first-term success, the new Detailer Communications Initiative, the assignment process, the advancement process and educational opportunities both on and off the ship.

"We put out a lot of information about college courses; especially those scheduled during our Western Pacific cruise," said Personnelman 3rd Class Tameka Davis of the professional development department. "These courses are a great way for the crew to start a degree program."

Representatives from

Naval Station Bremerton's Fleet and Family Service Center and the Navy College Office were also on hand to answer the Sailors' questions.

A table was set up with crewmembers who left the Navy, but later returned. Known as NAVETs, these *Carl Vinson* Sailors spoke to their shipmates about the "real world out there" and about the myths of the "grass being greener on the other side."

"I came back in the Navy after being out for 14 months," said Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Nathan Guimont, when asked why he took the time to speak to his shipmates about leaving the Navy. "I wanted to give the crew a more accurate perception on life outside the Navy right now."

Guimont returned to the Navy in October 2000 after working as an electrical apprentice in the civilian community.

"I came back in because I missed doing what I love... photography," Guimont said. "I also missed the camaraderie and sharing my knowledge with others."

From personal experiences to information on officer programs, USS *Carl Vinson* career counselors and the professional development department took the first step in helping their shipmate's accelerate their careers.

"The retention stand down was a great success," said Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW/AW) Michael Rhodes, one of the ship's command career counselors. "This will definitely have a positive impact on retention."

More information about USS *Carl Vinson* can be found at [www.vinson.navy.mil](http://www.vinson.navy.mil). More information about Navy retention-related programs can be found at [www.staynavy.navy.mil](http://www.staynavy.navy.mil).

## Don't Miss Out on "Any Day in the Navy" 2001!

By the Navy Wire Service



**U.S. Navy Photo**

WASHINGTON (NNS) — "All Hands" magazine has upped the ante this year. You now have a whole month to grab a camera and get that perfect shot for "All Hands" magazine's "Any Day in the Navy" issue. (So, what's your excuse?)

The photo shoot is designed to capture quality photos of Sailors, Marines,

some of the worst ones show people far in the distance, backs of heads, or members doing nothing in particular. So, get close, try to get at least part of a face, and look for action. Please keep in mind that photos should illustrate how Sailors and Marines "work, live and fight."

To be considered, photos must be

Department of the Navy civilian employees, Naval Reservists and family members at work and at play.

The best photos highlight daily tasks that contribute to mission accomplishment and quality of life, and show the richness of life in today's Navy. But

received at "All Hands" by June 15, 2001. Photos will not be returned.

For more information on submission requirements, please consult NAVADMIN 110/01 or the May 2001 issue of "All Hands" magazine, pages 14 and 15.

Submissions should be mailed to: "All Hands" magazine — Attn: Photo Editor, Naval Media Center, 2713 Mitscher Rd. SW, Anacostia Annex, DC, 20373-5819. Be sure to mark all packages: "Any Day submissions." Digital images can be sent as .jpg files to the Chief of Information's Navy Visual News Service at [navynewsphoto@hq.navy.mil](mailto:navynewsphoto@hq.navy.mil). The subject line for all such submissions should read: "Any Day submissions."

Questions regarding the Any Day in the Navy photo shoot should be directed to the "All Hands" managing editor, JOCS(AW) Dave Desilets. Send e-mail to [desilets@mediacen.navy.mil](mailto:desilets@mediacen.navy.mil), or call DSN 288-2637, or (202) 433-2637.

# Boxer ARG with 11th MEU Provide Medical and Dental Assistance in East Timor

By USS Boxer Public Affairs

DILI, East Timor (NNS) — Navy doctors, dentists, nurses and hospital corpsmen are taught to take care of Sailors and Marines on ships and in the field. During peacetime and war they practice their art of medicine in hospitals, battalion aid stations and during sick call on deployed ships. Occasionally, a new challenge comes their way. It is a need that is uncommon for many of these military medics but a need that is too important to turn a blind-eye to. That need is humanitarian assistance to a war-ravaged country.

Recently, medical teams from the USS *Boxer* (LHD 4) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), currently on six-month deployment in the Western Pacific, brought their medical tools and know-how to the residents of East Timor. Doctors, dentists, nurses and corpsmen assigned to the *Boxer* ARG and 11th MEU spent three days helping identify illnesses and treating the sick and infirm.

Malaria, tuberculosis and other ailments plague the small island north of Darwin, Australia. Treatment and health care for the citizens of East Timor is extremely limited, which is why the *Boxer* ARG was making a third stop with Navy and Marine medical forces. The medical and dental evolutions were also in support of operations already in place by United States Support Group East Timor



USS *Boxer* (LHD 4)

U.S. Navy Photo

and United Nations Transition Administration East Timor.

The medical team from *Boxer* went ashore each morning to help augment the International Medical Assistance Portugal clinic, one of three sites in Dili where U.S. military doctors offered their services.

The team from the Portugal clinic provided health care services to more than 100 people a day, checking many for malaria and tuberculosis. Volunteer doctors and nurses from around the world run the facility on a rotational basis. Currently, Catarina Vaz Velho, a clinical psychologist from Portugal, is running the clinic.

Vaz Velho said when the clinic first opened its doors, the people of East Timor were very apprehensive about coming and receiving health care.

"In the beginning, people didn't trust the health services we were providing,

then step by step they started trusting us and now they are coming and the number is increasing everyday," Vaz Velho said. "In the beginning, they would come here only when they were almost dying, but now they are beginning to understand that they should come when they feel sick."

Military doctors from the *Boxer* ARG and 11th MEU treated patients at the Portugal clinic for a wide variety of illnesses. Some of those patients had walked for hours to the clinic to receive care. But more important than the care they provided to those patients was the valuable training given to the medical staff permanently assigned to the facility.

"The ability for the U.S. doctors to work alongside other countries, non-government organizations and other East Timorese is a tremendous training opportunity," said Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Susan M. Konczal, the support group's

Medical Planner. "East Timor is in need of tremendous aid and the service that we're providing is invaluable."

Konczal also said one of the more important services provided by the health care clinics were free eye exams and the prescribing of eyeglasses. During the three-day visit, more than 100 East Timorese received new eyeglasses from a clinic in Motael.

While most of the people came to the clinic to receive medical attention, *Boxer* Dental Technician Carlo Coronel, 34, from Panpanga, Philippines, said about 30 people came to receive dental care.

"We couldn't give them a filling or a cleaning because we didn't have the equipment. Most of the assistance that we gave to people was pulling their teeth. That's the best that we could do to relieve their pain," he said.

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# Mine Warfare Ships Participate in Hurricane Exercise

By Mine Warfare Command Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (NNS) — The sun shined brightly through a cloudless sky and light coastal breezes. Perfect weather for a hurricane preparedness exercise!

While Mother Nature didn't cooperate by setting a more convincing weather scene, everyone else participating in the annual U.S. Atlantic Fleet Hurricane Exercise 01 took the preparations very seriously.

Four ships participated in this year's exercise at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas. Mine countermeasures ships USS *Defender* (MCM 2) and USS *Warrior* (MCM 10), along with coastal mine hunters USS *Pelican* (MHC 53) and USS *Black Hawk* (MHC 56), practiced the heavy weather moor to prepare the crews how to protect the ship in case a hurricane was headed to the area.

"This is all part of Hurricane Exercise 01. There are ships in Norfolk, Mayport, Pascagoula and Ingleside that are all participating in the exercise," USS *Black Hawk* commanding officer Lt. Cmdr. Chris Halton explained. "Forecasters have simulated a hurricane out in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, moving toward the homeports. Ships that are able to get underway will sortie out of their homeport."

"This exercise is rather unique to Naval Station Ingleside," Cmdr. John Zarbock, Ingleside's port operations officer said. "MCMs and MHCs don't have the speed to outrun a storm. The storms come up into the Gulf (usually from the Southeast). Since we're on the western side

of the Gulf, the ships are either going right into the storm or trying to outrun it."

Since the ships can't outrun the storm, alternate methods must be used to protect the ships and crews.

"When we have hurricanes or heavy weather that could cause high seas, we're going to move the ship out, away from the pier," Halton said.

The procedure is rather simple. The ships are pulled away from the pier and a 10-inch hawser is attached from the bow of the ship to a heavy metal plate connected to an anchor chain. The chain is connected to concrete anchors buried below the basin. Two lines are then connected to the stern of the ship, crisscrossed and tied to the pier to provide extra support. Other ships will moor alongside in a modified Mediterranean moor.

"That will hold us in position, along with other ships moored alongside, in case of high winds and seas associated with a hurricane coming through the local area," Halton said.

The threat of a hurricane coming through South Texas is something Sailors take seriously. Being prepared is key.

"Why is it important? Look where we're at! Heavy weather could hit at anytime so you have to be prepared," said Seaman Reginald McMillan, a Washington, D.C., native assigned to USS *Defender* (MCM 2). "It's better to be prepared than to be blind."

"This is very realistic training. This is exactly what we would be doing if a storm was coming in," Zarbock said. "We want to get all the ships in

the moor prior to having winds of 35 knots here. That's our goal. If all the ships were in port during a storm, it could take as long as 24-36 hours to get all 20 ships in the heavy weather moor so we have to start that much farther ahead."

"The crew takes this very seriously. They know that if we have to do this again, it will be for real. They know the

winds and seas will be a lot higher and the whole evolution will be a lot more dangerous," Halton said.

Preparing the crew for emergencies is a critical part of the exercise.

"It's important for us to demonstrate that all the

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## Check your tires, sir?



**Chock and chains crewmembers secure the wheels of an F/A-18 Hornet to the flight deck aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert McRill**

# Navy Presents Fisher Award to Colorado Civilian

By the Navy Wire Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — It was the Navy's opportunity this year to present an award to a particular civilian for outstanding humanitarian support of military personnel and their families. Acting Secretary of the Navy Robert Pirie Jr. recently presented the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award to Colorado businessman Harold

U. Littrell during a May 3 ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

Littrell was recognized for his efforts to enhance the quality of life for service members serving at Fort Carson, Colo. He helped raise money for family and MWR programs and also led an effort that succeeded in passing a bill in the Colorado legislature providing in-state tuition for military members and their

children. Littrell is chairman of the board of Air Academy National Bank, Colorado Springs, Colo.

The award was established by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, recognizing civilians who have dedicated their time and talents toward helping service members. The Fishers are also the sponsors more than 30 Fisher House locations at military medical facilities around the world.

During the presentation, Pirie called the Fisher's work a "beacon of light for all of us."

The services rotate hosting the award each year. In 2000, the award was presented by the undersecretary of the Air Force to a Texas businessman for his volunteer and humanitarian efforts to Navy personnel in the South Texas area.

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Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Luis Surla also volunteered to go to the clinic, where he worked as a lab technician checking for different strains of malaria.

"We took a blood sample from each patient that came through. Then we put the sample on a slide and dried it, stained it and read it. That allowed us to determine what type of parasite they had. On one day in April, we saw at least 40 patients, and before they go anywhere they wait around to see what their lab results are, so they can be treated," he said.

The 25-year-old San Diego, Calif., native said he thought the health care the medical team provided made a big difference to the people they saw. "I feel that this is a great service we're providing here," he said. "If I had the choice to do this all over again, I would."

Although *Boxer's* medical team was only at the clinic for three days, Cmdr. Bruce Laverty, the staff surgeon for Commander Amphibious Squadron 7 and mission commander for the medical

and dental camp here, said the assistance they provided should go a long way to improving health care in East Timor.

"It makes a difference that we were here. There's a lot of disease in this part of the world and they don't have the money to completely eradicate malaria or tuberculosis. Medical care is more than just curing disease. It's also the comfort that a parent gets from bringing their child to a doctor. I'm very proud of the service we're providing and the work the *Boxer* group medical and dental teams performed," said Laverty.

Konczal said the people they saw were very appreciative of the attention they received from the medical team.

"They absolutely love the United States. They know we're here providing them a service, and overwhelmingly, it's just an outpouring of thanks and gratitude. Knowing that the United States is here, people come and line up just in anticipation of being able to see a U.S. doctor," said Konczal.

## Tandem Thrust 01



A CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter unloads cargo onto USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) during a Vertical replenishment (VERTREP). Kitty Hawk is currently engaged in Exercise Tandem Thrust 01, a combined U.S. and Australian military training exercise. Photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Staci M. Bitzer

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equipment on the ship, as well as with port operations, works, and that they are in a condition to be used on short notice, as they would be if we had a real hurricane coming through," Halton explained.

Although the training is part of an annual exercise, some Sailors haven't had a chance to go over the procedures in detail. When a storm is approaching, it may be too late.

"I thought this was good training. It's all stuff that we need to know," McMillian observed. "Not many people on the ship have done this before, so it was good to see how it will be done."

"We have not done this in two years, so its important for a

ship like *Black Hawk*, which was on deployment during last year's exercise, to participate in exercises like this," Halton said.

"Hurricane Brett in 1999 was the last time we put all the ships in the moor for real," Zarbock explained.

"Fortunately, the storm went to the south, but all our ships did alright then."

With this year's training concluded, Sailors will be better prepared when heavy weather makes its way toward the Gulf Coast.

"It only takes one storm to do a lot of damage," Zarbock said. "That's why we train and conduct exercises such as this. When it comes time for the real thing, we'll be ready."

## Rigging the Chute



**Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 2nd Class Greg Majors measures a four-line release for an NB-8 parachute. Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class John Collins**

## Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- Sailors and Marines compete at the Armed Forces Women's Basketball Championships in Quantico, Va.;
- Meet a team of Sailors who are on duty 24/7 protecting the environment;
- Spring is in the air and so were the Blue Angels and Leap Frogs at the annual Azalea Festival in Norfolk, Va.;
- Go aboard USS *Mahan* (DDG 72) and see why this crew is high on retention.

Compiled on tape #2001-20, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

## In Naval History:

- May 14, 1945: The carrier USS *Enterprise* (CV 6) is struck and seriously damaged by a kamikaze plane off the coast of Okinawa.

- May 15, 1991: An amphibious task force arrives at Chittagong, Bangladesh, for relief operations after being hit by Cyclone Marian.

- May 16, 1820: The frigate *Congress* sails from Hampton Roads, Va., to become the first U.S. naval vessel to visit China. The ship arrived in December 1820.

- May 17, 1987: While on radar picket duty in the Persian Gulf, USS *Stark* (FFG 31) is hit by two Iraqi Exocet missiles 80 miles northeast of Bahrain. Thirty-seven crewmen are killed. Damage control efforts save the ship despite a fire hot enough to melt parts of the aluminum superstructure (1,800 degrees Fahrenheit) and a 16-degree list to port.

- May 18, 1969: *Apollo 10* launches, a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing. The pilot of the command module was Navy Cmdr. John Young, and the lunar module pilot was Navy Cmdr. Eugene Cernan. The craft made 31 lunar orbits in 61.6 hours over an eight-day mission. Recovery was by helicopters from USS *Princeton* (LPH 5).

- May 19, 1912: The cruiser USS *Birmingham* (CL 2) begins the first American ice patrol in the North Atlantic. That such a patrol was needed was made evident by the sinking of RMS *Titanic* a month earlier.

- May 20, 1965: Units from the U.S. 7th Fleet bombard the shores of South Vietnam. This was the Navy's first use of naval gun fire since the Korean War.

For more information about naval history visit the Naval Historical Center web site at [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

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